

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1890.

The large audience included a great many ladies. Address of about 10 minutes duration were delivered by the chairman, the Rev. A. J. Webb, the president, and the secretary of the New South Wales Shop Employees' Union, and several others, after which general discussion was invited, the speakers from among the congregation being allowed five minutes each. The main contention was that the shop and industrial workers were responsible for long hours having to be worked.

The directors of the Benevolent Society have issued a pamphlet in which an appeal is made to the public for its practical sympathy in behalf of the unfortunate persons who, apply daily to the society for relief.

The publication, which runs into 20 pages, is illustrated with woodcuts of the Benevolent Asylum and some of its inmates, the latter showing some of the classes of people who daily apply for relief.

It is pointed out that the management of the asylum is in an unbroken hand, whose members personally superintend its operations, and it is also stated that 1775 individuals, principally widows and young children, are now being supported by the poor rate.

The following grants for the poor were made last year:—Bread, 10,181.7; leaves, bread, 70,923.; meat, 77,760.; sugar, 51,440.; soap, 90,936.; rice, 11,200.; arrowroot, 112.; oilseed, 55,071.; blankets, 231; pots, 100.; tea, 100.; paraffin, 100.; flour, 100.; soap, 6348 (special Charitable gifts); flour, 5 yards; sheets for beds, 601 yards, and in special cases, alowances for rent.

An experimental inquiry has been held into the recent accident at Gunning station. It appears that the no. 1 mail train was just moving into the siding when the engine, which had been given a sharp pull, gave way, and came to a standstill about one-third of a mile from the station. The speed of the express train being only about three miles an hour, practically no damage was done. The accident seems to have been due to the non-observance of the regulations of the Department.

The Attorney-General has declined to prosecute in the case of Stephen Gibbons, who was recently committed for trial at Queenstown.

There is much talk in Paris (says the *Times*' correspondent) of a scheme interesting the trade and industry both of France and England. There has long been a desire on the part of the English to make available to the world some of their scientific knowledge, and the various governments have agreed to the unqualified opposition of the great majority of medical men, with the half-hearted support of others, without a local habitation, or even a hospital, where the students could get the technical training and expense of breaking bulk in receiving goods from all parts of the world has continued to engage the attention of the medical profession, and numerous experiments and investigations have been made.

It is now known that a dozen great ports, including those of Paris, London, Liverpool, and Hamburg, have agreed to establish a central laboratory for medical men, and all arrangements made for rapid exchange. This promises a revolution in the commercial relations between Paris and the world for the vessels will be increased as required by Mr. Blaine, the American Secretary of State, and proposes that arbitration should be resorted to.

RUSSIAN RAILWAY LOAN. LONDON, Aug. 16. Russia is arranging a railway loan of £15,000,000.

THE WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA. LONDON, Aug. 16. General Estrada, the San Salvador commander, has defeated the Guatemalan rebels. San Salvador and Honduras have massed 10,000 men to operate against the frontier of Guatemala.

THE HEALTH OF THE DUKE OF CLARENCE. LONDON, Aug. 16. The Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, is again unwell. He is suffering from recurring attacks of fever, the result of his Indian tour.

THE SILVER BOOM IN AMERICA. LONDON, Aug. 16. The Treasury authorities at Washington are purchasing silver at 115c. (its U.S. per ounce) American stocks are small.

A congress of the Latin Union will probably be held. The Indian rupee is quoted in London at 1s. 8d.

The report presented by M. De Losseps on the shareholders of the Suez Canal at their recent annual meeting was (says *Le Matin*) that the English Government had contributed £1,000,000, the Bulgarian £1,000,000, and the French £1,000,000.

The Spanish and Portuguese governments have agreed to contribute £1,000,000 each, and the remaining £1,000,000 will be raised by the Egyptian government.

The sum of £1,000,000 will be paid to the Suez Canal Company, and the remainder will be used for the construction of the canal.

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